

Appl. No. 09/577,601
Reply to Office Action of February 16, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please amend the claims as shown in the below Listing of Claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Amended): An expression vector for expression of a recombinant protein in a host cell, comprising:

a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-proteolytic mutant of a *Haemophilus* Hin47 protein wherein said Hin47 protein is mutated at amino acid 91, 121 or 197 and said nucleic acid molecule includes a portion encoding the leader sequence for said non-proteolytic mutant,

at least one additional nucleic acid molecule encoding the recombinant protein, wherein the recombinant protein is a Hia protein of a strain of *Haemophilus influenzae* which is N-terminally truncated, and

at least one regulatory element operatively connected to said first nucleic acid molecule and at least one regulatory element operatively connected to said at least one additional nucleic acid molecule to effect expression of at least said recombinant protein in the host cell.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The vector of claim 5 wherein histidine 91 is replaced by alanine.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Amended): The vector of ~~claim 10~~ claim 8, wherein said N-terminal truncation is V38.

Claims 12-43 (Canceled)

Claim 44 (New): The vector of ~~claim 10~~ claim 8, wherein said N-terminal truncation is S44.